

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE
FOR YOUR
WASTE TREATMENT LAGOON**

OPERATOR: _____ DATE: _____

TAX MAP KEY OF PRACTICE LOCATION: _____

NRCS OFFICE: _____ PHONE: _____

A properly operated and maintained waste treatment lagoon is an asset to your farm. This waste treatment lagoon is designed and installed to provide biological treatment of animal waste. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

Following are recommendations for the operation and maintenance of your waste treatment lagoon.

OPERATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Water level shall not exceed recommended operating level or the marked level on the side slope.
- Always have storage available for the 25 year-24 hour rainfall. If the water level rises above the recommended or staked level, reduce the water level as soon as dry conditions make it possible to safely spread the wastewater.
- Notify NRCS if settlement, bulges, holes, or cracks are noticed in concrete structures or earthen embankments.
- Operate system in a manner that minimizes odors and air drift.
- Notify NRCS of developments above or below your lagoon.
- Leave a minimum of _____ feet of the wastewater in the lagoon during emptying.
- Stop clean water from entering your lagoon.
- The water level shall be reduced to a depth of _____ feet by the beginning of _____. This will provide the necessary storage during the high rainfall months.
- Develop an emergency action plan in the event of overtopping of the pond or accidental release of wastewater from the pond. Plan what actions shall be followed to minimize the impacts.

- Additional operation recommendations are as follows:

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Inspect the embankment areas, spillways, pipes, valves, lining, concrete structures, and other items installed at your lagoon semi-annually.
- Keep a stake or marker in the berm designating the maximum operating water level.
- Keep berm at least one foot above ground surface. This will keep outside water from entering your lagoon.
- Immediately repair vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to earthfills, spillway, outlets or other appurtenances.
- Immediately remove obstructions or blockage of spillways, trash racks, or pipe inlets. Remove accumulated solids from facilities.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- Be sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. The screens and/or rodent guards shall be kept in place.
- Maintain all pumps, agitators, piping, valves and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition following the manufacturer recommendations.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides as necessary. Periodic mowing or grazing may be needed to control height.
- Fences and warning signs shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.

- Additional maintenance recommendation are as follows:

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR
ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE.